




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

TO: LEA and ISD Superintendents
Directors and Authorizers of Public School Academies

FROM: Jeremy M. Hughes, Ph.D. 
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

DATE: November 17, 2006

SUBJECT: Guidance for Middle School Mathematics Initiative
Section 99c

Section 99c of the State School Aid Act (2006 PA 342) provides funding to local school districts (LEAs) for the Middle School Mathematics Initiative to implement the middle school mathematics standards and benchmarks adopted by the State Board of Education. Payments to districts for the 2006-07 year shall be an equal amount per pupil for each pupil actually enrolled and attending school in the district in grades 6 through 8. Payments will amount to approximately \$54 per student.

Section 99c states:

"A district shall use funds received under this section for activities and efforts designed to improve pupil performance in mathematics."

This implies that all activities need to benefit students in grades 5 - 8 since the 6th grade assessment covers 5th grade content, 7th grade assessment covers 6th grade content, and the 8th grade assessment covers 7th grade content. In addition, LEAs must make every effort to design activities that support the achievement of students in all subgroups.

Attached are the guidelines for use of 99c funds. They allow for a wide variety of activities and efforts that, when implemented faithfully and focused specifically on the middle school math needs of an LEA, should result in increased mathematics performance of all middle school students. Also attached is the original language of 99c.

If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Anne Hodges, Office of School Improvement at HodgesRA@michigan.gov.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
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388.1699c Middle School Mathematics Initiative

Section 99c (1) From the state school aid fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated an amount not to exceed \$20,000,000.00 for 2006-2007 for payments to districts under this section for the middle school mathematics initiative to achieve the middle school mathematics standards and benchmarks adopted by the state board.

(2) The amount of the payment to each district for 2006-2007 shall be an equal amount per pupil for each pupil actually enrolled and attending school in the district in grades 6 to 8. Payments to a district under this section for subsequent fiscal years shall be as described in subsection (4).

(3) A district shall use funds received under this section for activities and efforts designed to improve pupil performance in mathematics.

(4) It is the intent of the legislature to continue to allocate funds under this section for subsequent fiscal years based on improved pupil performance in mathematics. It is also the intent of the legislature to develop standards for determining improvement in pupil performance by March 1, 2007.

GUIDANCE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS INITIATIVE

State School Aid Act, MCL 388.1699c (2006 PA 342)

INTRODUCTION

MCL 388.1699c (Section 99c) of the State School Aid Act (2006 PA 342) specifies payments to districts “for the middle school mathematics initiative to achieve the middle school mathematics standards and benchmarks adopted by the state board.” This implies that all activities must benefit students in grades 5-8 since the 6th grade assessment covers 5th grade content, 7th grade assessment covers 6th grade content and the 8th grade assessment covers 7th grade content.

PLAN CRITERIA

Whenever possible, Sec. 99c funds should be used for activities and efforts that support or extend exemplary middle school mathematics initiatives that are already underway across the state. These may include, but are not limited to, Mathematics/Science Partnership Grants (Title IIB), Improving Teacher Quality Grants (Title IIA), Title I efforts, Freedom to Learn and the Office of Special Education and Early Interventions Mathematics AYP project. Other criteria include:

- All professional learning activities should be aligned to the Michigan professional development vision and standards; the Mathematics Grade Level Content Expectations, 5th-8th grade; and the School Improvement Framework.
- There must be documented evidence that:
 - Data supports the proposed activities, i.e., MEAP scores that identify weaknesses in content and in subgroups.
 - Research supports all proposed activities and efforts in improving student achievement on the 6-8 mathematics portion of the MEAP.
- It is the intent of the legislature to continue to allocate funds under this section for subsequent fiscal years based on improved pupil performance in mathematics. It is also the intent of the legislature to develop standards for determining improvement in pupil performance by March 1, 2007.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND EFFORTS

- Professional learning at the ISD and/or district level related to identified middle school mathematics needs of the teachers in either content or pedagogy, including planning, implementation, materials, teacher stipends or substitute costs.
- Activities and materials that support English Language Learners or special education populations.
- Salaries for personnel that will plan and provide professional learning for districts in middle school mathematics, prorated with the amount of time spent on Sec. 99c efforts.
- Support administration efforts to improve mathematics by training curriculum leaders, principals and teacher coaches in best practices that support middle school mathematics achievement, e.g. Lenses on Learning, Content-Focused Coaching, etc.
- Materials, including training to support use of materials, which support student achievement at the middle school level.
- After-school and summer school for students that need more sustained scaffolding with the middle school curriculum.